

## Ward One Update

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## Message from Council Member Kevin Reich

August and September are usually busy months, as summer wraps up and the school year gets underway. That's been particularly true for the First Ward, with lots of activity and community spirit to celebrate. The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Eastside Community & Schools BBQ on August 23 and the Waite Park Fall Festival & Push Cart Derby on September 8 were two outstanding events that brought community together. September brings more exciting news as the Minneapolis Public School District continues to implement healthy new changes to the school lunch menu. Check out the story on Page 3 for more details.

September marked the opening of The **Solar Arts Building**, located at 711 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. This historic structure has received an infusion of new life with solar technology, innovative renovation and a raft of artists' studios. One of the building's most high-profile tenants is **Indeed Brewery**, which celebrated its grand opening in August. Made possible by last year's change in City ordinance, Indeed features both a brewing operation and a taproom in the heart of what's being called Northeast Minneapolis' "Brew District".

Last month also saw a unique gathering of First Ward volunteers at the "Appointed Boards & Commissions" forum I hosted on August 29. Eighteen current and former members of Minneapolis advisory boards and commissions discussed their work with 30 or so fellow Ward One residents. See Page 5 for more information about this fascinating discussion.

I'd like to extend an invitation to another Ward-wide forum on **October 17**, **6-8 pm**, at Eastside Food Co-op on the topic of "Urban Agriculture & the **Eastside**". The evening will feature a panel of invited guests including Mike Smieja of Windom Park's Buchanan Street Farm, and representatives from California Street Farm, Northeast Farmers Market, Homegrown Minneapolis, Mother Earth Gardens and more. I hope you'll be able to join us for what promises to be an in depth conversation about the current state of urban agriculture in our community.

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### First Ward Neighborhood Associations

<u>Audubon Park Neighborhood</u> <u>Association</u>

Columbia Park Neighborhood Association

Holland Neighborhood Improvement Association (HNIA)

Logan Park Neighborhood Association

Concerned Citizens of Marshall Terrace

Northeast Park Neighborhood Association

<u>Southeast Como Improvement</u> <u>Association</u>

Waite Park Community Council

Windom Park Citizens in Action

## Arts District's New Solar Arts Building



Solar Arts Sept. 6 Ribbon Cutting

Topped with 109 solar panels and filled with artist studios, a gallery and a microbrewery, today's newly renovated Solar Arts Building is a far cry from its early 20<sup>th</sup> century roots as a site for the manufacture of tires, rubber and transformers.

Co-owners Duane Arens and Larry Brandt were initially attracted to the building at 711 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE because of its location in the heart of the Arts District and its unique structural elements. Their renovation focused

on enhancing the building's creative space, including studios for artists and creative professionals and a 3<sup>rd</sup> floor gallery that will host the Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association (NEMAA) Fall Fine Arts Show beginning September 21. Another focus was on designing an

environmentally-friendly building; hence the rooftop solar panels and the name "Solar Arts". Lastly, they added Indeed Brewery, Minneapolis' most recent microbrewery. This newest addition to the Arts District is an example of the public sector providing a framework of support for private investment and community improvement.



## Indeed Brewery: Open for Business

Last year's City ordinance allowing breweries to open taprooms has borne fruit in Ward One with the opening of Indeed Brewing in the Solar Arts Building. Their 12,000 square-foot facility is comprised of a 30-barrel

brewing system, a taproom with 37-foot long bar and a 45-seat patio.

Indeed is the first of a number of breweries proposing to begin operations in what's being termed the "Northeast Brew District", including 612 Brew and Northgate. It's an example of history moving full circle, CM Reich pointed out: "When brewing took place in the



Indeed co-founders Tom Whisenand, Nathan Berndt & Rachel Anderson with CM Reich

early days of Minneapolis, it was right here in Northeast."



Need to report a broken street light? Is there a stray dog roaming your neighborhood? Do you just want a question about the City of Minneapolis answered? Minneapolis 311 is the most efficient option for taking care of these and many other issues.

Beginning April 12, Minneapolis 311 hours will be reduced. Operators will be available from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mon.-Fri. However, you will find many 311 services and information sources online at

www.minneapolismn.gov/311/. Also, the Ward One office staff is 311-trained, so you may always call our office at 612-673-2201 for assistance.

### The New Face of School Lunch

The words "school lunch" may conjure up many images, but "local, grassfed, all beef hotdog" probably isn't among them. Nevertheless, it's one of the new menu items signaling the many changes taking place with Minneapolis Public Schools' (MPS) culinary program. Council Member Reich recently toured MPS' Plymouth Avenue food facility with nutrition director Bertrand Weber to see firsthand the new plans for amping up the nutrition, flavor and appeal of school meals.

Swiss-born Weber, who was previously the nutrition director for the Hopkins School District and also spent 6 years as manager of the Whitney Hotel, described the history of MPS' food program as it transitioned from a central commissary in the 70s to a pre-wrapped, pre-assembled process over the past few decades. "We're



CM Reich with the MPS culinary team: Irfan Chaudhry, Ricardo Abbott & Bertrand Webber

trying to reverse that trend and go back to freshly cooked food," he explained. To that end he is working to source local partners, including Pepin Heights, Golden Plump, Great Northern Baking Company, Thousand Acres Beef and two First Ward businesses: Holy Land Deli and Cre8it, Inc.

Weber has developed a five year plan for completing the renovation of the school lunch program. By the end of this year, for example, most schools will offer students a salad bar. A key element of the success of the new program, however, resides in the amount of buy-in it gets from students



and parents. "The longer they stay out of the program," he explained, "the longer it's going to take to improve it". Increased student lunch purchases would mean more funds are available to dedicate toward improvements. Given the results seen from new menu tests last year, student participation may not be a problem; Washburn High School saw a 40% increase in kids eating school lunch on menu test days.

Weber's Culinary & Nutrition Services team will be offering up a tasty celebration of these changes on **Friday, September 21, 4-7 p.m.** with a free **Farm2School Community BBQ** for all MPS families. The party will offer an opportunity to meet local farmers, try taste tests, view a compost demo and many more activities, while enjoying some great local food and recipes. The event will be at the Plymouth Avenue facility, 812 N. Plymouth Avenue. For questions or more information, contact farm2school@mpls.k12.mn.us.



Many of us are trying to cut back on paper bag use by taking our

own bags to the grocery store. If you find that that practice leaves you short of paper bags for separating your recycling, the City of Minneapolis has an alternative for you. You may use wastebaskets, pails or corrugated boxes for separated paper, plastic or cans. These alternative containers should be 10 gallons or less and there must be a city recycling sticker on at least one side of the container.

The Ward One office has a supply of recycling stickers, so if you need some, just give us a call at 612-673-2201. We would be happy to mail or drop them off for you.

## New Edison Sign Unveiled

A brand new Edison High School sign was unveiled on August 23 during the Eastside Community & Schools BBQ. Designed by local artist James Brenner and SignMinds Ben Janssens, and funded by the Edison Community & Sports Foundation (ESCF),



Holland Neighborhood Improvement Association (HNIA) and the school itself, this unique dynamic sign is constructed of cor-ten steel and glass to complement the Brenner-designed *Innovation Backstop*, *In Flux* and *Double Flux* art installments across the street.

# 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Eastside Community Schools BBQ



This year's Annual Community & Schools BBQ broke all previous records with over 2200 people served. Students and families from six Eastside schools – Edison, Waite Park, Marcy Open, Sheridan, Pillsbury, and Northeast Middle – as well as First Ward residents, businesses, and firefighters

enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon and evening in the Edison High School parking lot.

Some highlights of this year's festivities:

- Recovery Bike was on hand with their pedal-propelled Mobile Command & Repair Module, offering free bike repairs.
- **Bike.Walk.Move.** offered bike safety workshops, with prizes and giveaways.
- Edison High School introduced ZAP, a solar-powered system that allows students to track miles biked, and also set up their perennially popular "blender bike".
- **Tap Minneapolis** provided all the drinking water for the event.

Volunteers for the event included MPS board members Jenny Arneson, Jill Davis, Rebecca Gagnon and Carla Bates; MPS Superintendent Bernadeia Johnson, as well as Rick Mills, Mark Bonine and Michael Thomas from District headquarters; State Senator Kari Dziedzic; State Rep Diane Loeffler; Mpls Park Board Commissioner Liz Wielinski; Council Member Kevin Reich; and Mark Latosky, president of Firefighters Local 82, along with a strong contingent of firefighters.

## Meet with your Council Member

If you would like to discuss an issue or concern with Kevin, he'd be happy to meet with you at either City Hall or a convenient location in Ward One. Please call the Ward One office at 612-673-2201 or email

lisa.brock@minneapolismn.gov to schedule a date.

The City of Minneapolis invites and encourages participation by every resident to each program, service and event within our city.

Should you require an accommodation in order for you to fully participate, or should you require this document in an alternative format, please let us know by contacting 612-673-2201.

### ZAP Twin Cities Comes to Edison

Toyota and the National Audubon Society recently
selected Ashley Mueller as a 2012 TogetherGreen Fellow for her work
encouraging biking and walking among students and staff at Edison High
School. Previously Mueller was involved in setting up the Edison Student
Green Council. As a TogetherGreen Fellow, she's received a \$10,000
grant to implement the ZAP system at Edison to support biking and
walking. ZAP is a solar-powered, automated hardware and software
system that allows the tracking of commuting outcomes such as miles
biked/walked, calories burned and CO2 reduced. In addition to using the
technology to encourage biking and walking, Mueller is working with
teachers to use this tool in their curriculum. ZAP isn't just for students; if
you are a bike commuter interested in participating in this free incentive
program, visit www.ZAPTwinCities.org for information about how to get
tagged and where to ZAP your ride.

## **Boards & Commissions Forum Recap**



On August 29 Council Member Reich hosted a community meeting on the topic of the City of Minneapolis' Appointed Boards and Commissions. Eighteen current and former Ward 1 representatives provided information about the focus and mission of the particular boards or committees they served on and described their experiences for the audience of

community members. One enlightening highlight was former commissioner Sonja Peterson's brief history of the Civil Rights Commission, including that Hubert H. Humphrey was instrumental in establishing it in the 1940s, making it the City's oldest. At the other end of the spectrum, Matti Gurney and Peter Janelle, the former and current representatives respectively to the Pedestrian Advisory Committee, described the evolution and work of what is the City's newest advisory board. City Clerk Casey Carl explained the semi-annual appointment cycle and offered information about how to apply for open positions.

One of the most striking elements of the forum was the high level of commitment of these representatives to their work on behalf of their neighbors and fellow citizens. JP Hagerty, a member of the Ethical Practices Board, told the audience that after enjoying living in Minneapolis for 10 years she was motivated by a desire to give back. Other representatives talked about the important contributions these entities make to City policy and legislation. If you are interested in learning more about this unique opportunity to engage with your community and the City of Minneapolis as a whole, click HERE.

#### **Street Sweeping Alert:**

Each spring and fall, Public Works crews sweep every mile of the City's more than 1,100 miles of streets - curb to curb - to help keep our neighborhoods clean and livable and to protect our waterways. Leaves and other debris on the streets can clog storm drains and pollute our rivers and lakes.

This fall's street sweeping is scheduled to begin the fourth week of October. Street sweeping usually takes about five weeks to complete.

- No Parking Signs City crews will post "No Parking" signs at least 24 hours before sweeping any streets. Parking will be banned from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the day a street is swept. Vehicles not removed will be towed to the Mpls Impound Lot.
- Use the Street Sweeping Schedule Lookup when it becomes available in October.

Check out the October First Ward Newsletter for updated street sweeping information.

#### Save The Date:

#### Fall Fine Arts Show

**Opens Friday, Sept. 21, 6-9 p.m., runs through Sept. 30**, Solar Arts Building 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Gallery, 711 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE. This NEMAA-sponsored exhibit features the work of over 130 artists.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership (MRP) Riverboat Tour

**Monday, Sept. 24, 5:30-8 p.m.**, Boom Island Park. Join the members of MRP for a sunset cruise, silent auction, live music and more. To register, click HERE.

#### One Minneapolis One Read: Spirit Car

**Monday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m.**, Minneapolis Convention Center Auditorium. Join Garrison Keillor and author Diane Wilson for a discussion of "Spirit Car: Journey to a Dakota Past". Tickets at <a href="https://www.ticketworks.com">www.ticketworks.com</a> or 612-343-3390.

#### Community Energy Workshop

**Wednesday, Sept. 26, 6-8 p.m.**, Eastside Food Co-op, 2551 Central Ave NE. Cooperative Energy Futures (CEF) will provide information on their bulk purchase program for solar-electric panels and bulk purchase program for home insulation. For further information, contact CEF at 612-568-2334 or info@cooperativeenergyfutures.com.

#### AccessAbility, Inc. Open House

**Thursday, Sept. 27, 11 a.m.** -3 **p.m.**, 360 Hoover St. NE. All are welcome at this annual open house to learn more about the work of this Ward One business. For more information, visit www.accessability.org.

#### Nicollet-Central Streetcar Open House

**Thursday, Sept. 27, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**, Eastside Food Co-op, 2551 Central Ave NE. Join City of Minneapolis staff for an overview of the Nicollet-Central Transit Alternatives Study, which is just beginning and will continue into 2013. Learn about modern streetcar and enhanced bus options being considered along the Central Avenue and Nicollet Avenue corridors.

#### Hollywood Theater Open House

**Saturday, Sept. 29, 2-6 p.m.**, 2815 Johnson St NE. This special opportunity to explore the interior of the historic Hollywood Theater is being held in conjunction with the launch of the new Android mobile app "Field Trip". Join the Field Trip tour to unique NE Minneapolis destinations. More info at www.fieldtripday.com/minneapolis.

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